



# Three things!



Chaz

 [cvillette](https://cvillette.livejournal.com/)

<https://cvillette.livejournal.com/>

2008-02-19 09:03:00

**MOOD:**  accomplished

**MUSIC:** She Wants Revenge - Broken Girl

1) Okay, O., She Wants Revenge = yes. It's like the Eighties rose up from the grave and came looking for *braiiiiiiiiins*. The good part of the Eighties. I can't decide if it's more Joy Division/Bauhaus or Psychedelic Furs, but it's evil earworm city.

2)

140,664 People

([https://www.livejournal.com/away?](https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//www.justsayhi.com/bb/death)

[to=http%3A//www.justsayhi.com/bb/death](https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//www.justsayhi.com/bb/death))

3) I like kneading dough. The pretzels

([https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//foppish-](https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//foppish-baker.blogspot.com/2005/12/sourdough-pretzels.html)

[baker.blogspot.com/2005/12/sourdough-pretzels.html](https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//foppish-baker.blogspot.com/2005/12/sourdough-pretzels.html))\_came out

awesome, though next time I'm going to use much less sugar than the recipe calls for--they are a little too sweet, and the sugar's killed much of the sourdough flavor. I didn't use as much flour as the recipe calls for, which is part of it, but then I tend to measure flour into dough by the does-it-feel-right technique rather than by ounces and cups.

When I did the boiling, I used water with baking soda and salt in it, to help the crust get chewy. I am pretty sure this recipe would also make beautiful bagels, because these are the just-right kind of chewy pretzels that are remarkably like the just-right kind of chewy bagels. Next time, I might let it rise longer in the fridge, to develop more lactic acid, and I might try making them part-whole-wheat. Maybe the King Arthur white whole wheat flour, because I don't want to mess up the texture.

Dough is really tactile stuff. You have to poke at it until it feels

right. Most people don't work it long enough, and wind up with bread without much texture, which is sad.

I've mentioned the baby's-bottom/woman's breast test before (if it feels like living flesh, it's approaching the right consistency, and the surface texture should be similar--a little bit tacky, but mostly smooth and pleasant to touch, and it should have sucked up all the stray bits of dough and flour from the kneading surface with the irresistible gravitational attraction of a black hole. Another good test is the windowpane test. This is how you tell if the gluten is adequately developed. You pinch off a piece of dough, roll it into a ball, and gently stretch it between your fingers. If you can stretch it fine enough that the center of the piece thins to a translucent membrane, and you can see light and shadow through it, it's done.

Dough is also therapy. You can pound a lot of frustrations into a pile of flour and salt and yeast and water, and that you come out on the other end with bread is kind of wonderful. And also probably kind of metaphorical.

And now I have to go heat my pretzels up, so I can feed my friends. And hey, Dad's arm is out of the sling. I wonder if he will accept a pretzel in congratulations.

**TAGS:** [bread](#)



---

[Experimental Whole Wheat Green Chile Robot Bread #1](#)

Yes, baking with your hands is more fun. And the results have a better texture, and taste better.

[\[locked\] Dream Journal](#)

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

[Elvis doesn't live here anymore.](#)

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

68 comments



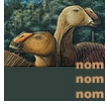
 [dichroic](#)

[February 19 2008, 14:08:35 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

You made sourdough pretzels? Can I come over? Please?

The trip I just got back from was two weeks in the US. I went through (pause to add) at least 40 oz of sourdough hard pretzels in those two weeks, but sadly was not in a region that features good soft pretzels.



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 14:11:06 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

They were SUPER EASY.

No really.

Mostly it's just having the discipline to ignore the starter long enough to get it cooking.



[dichroic](#)

[February 19 2008, 14:15:55 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Not that easy. Sunday I leave for another continent (3-5 weeks) on which I will not have an oven handy.

On the other hand, Germany will be just over a border, and Germany has pretzels. Is taking a day trip purely for the purpose of buying and eating pretzels too excessive? (They're a major food group, right? In my world they are.)



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 14:26:26 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Oh, THAT problem. Yes.

And yeah, totally. I would go to Germany for a pretzel. Or seventy.

[trollcatz](#)

[February 19 2008, 16:49:08 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Also, they look like pretzels.

I mean, really, big purdy knots. Dude, you have mad skilz.

Hey, you could do all those climbing knots you showed me!

[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 16:50:30 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Figure 8 pretzels.

AWESOME.

[dancing\\_crow](#)

[February 19 2008, 17:58:33 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

bowline pretzels (the queen of knots)



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 19:19:39 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Elmer and I could do crafts together. It would be quality time.

Macrame.

 [cjtremlett](#)

[February 19 2008, 14:56:49 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

You're an enabler, you know that, right? \*g\* Now I really want to order a starter. Between homemade pretzels and kneading as therapy, it's outweighing the concern about having enough time and making way more than I can eat.

 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:06:20 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

That's what friends are for.

Honestly, the two sourdough loaves from the first batch were not too big. About the size of a honeydew melon. And I got 11 good-sized but not giant pretzels out of this batch, which meant I got to have one last night as a snack, and bring the rest into work.

I couldn't keep myself in bread this way, actually, so I suspect for anybody else, or a family of two or three, there's not going to be too much waste. Especially as you can always freeze extras, or give them away.

People really light up when you hand them a warm sourdough pretzel.

 [cjtremlett](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:38:26 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Oooh, that's good to know! I can work with that. Thanks!

 [Ometotchtli](#)

[February 19 2008, 16:50:54 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

srsly. You could have lit the room with Wonder Woman.



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 16:52:09 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Happy Wonder Woman = WIN!

 [onceuponanever](#)

[February 19 2008, 20:01:14 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Mmm, sourdough pretzels. They sound delicious. Would you mind passing the recipe on in your next post? I certainly couldn't eat everything it made, but I have several friends who'd be interested. And if

that fails, I live in a college dorm. Leftovers are easy to get rid of, if I can bring myself to part with such delicious food!



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 20:02:32 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

If you look at the post, you'll see I linked to the recipe.

it's not one of mine.



[onceuponanever](#)

[February 19 2008, 20:03:41 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Ah, how unobservant of me. :-P



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 20:05:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Sneaky HTML



[trolldatz](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:23:07 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

So, Platypus? Was that Tasha's ringtone I just heard on your AOP?



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:24:25 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

um, yes?



[trolldatz](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:27:36 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

So what did she say?

Because *you* weren't talking.



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:29:10 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I talked!



[trolldatz](#)


[February 19 2008, 15:32:20 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Let's see. I don't have an eidetic memory. But I think I can handle this one.


You said, "Hello!" (brightly) and "Okay," (nervously) and then you listened for about ninety seconds and asked, "Are you sure?"

And then you stammered something I didn't catch because you had your hand in front of your mouth and said goodbye and sat there staring at the phone for thirteen seconds.

I'm not Frost. I timed it.

 [cvillette](#)  
February 19 2008, 15:33:09 UTC   COLLAPSE

I plead the fifth.

 [trollcatz](#)  
February 19 2008, 15:58:56 UTC   COLLAPSE

Hmm. But you're not under oath. So I'm not sure it counts.


Does somebody have a date tonight?

 [Ometotchtli](#)  
February 19 2008, 16:03:23 UTC   COLLAPSE


Ninety seconds is a long time. Long enough for a girl to say all kinds of things.

Probably not "never call me again," though, based on contextual evidence.

Hmm. If they were going climbing, he'd take you.


 [cvillette](#)  
February 19 2008, 16:17:16 UTC   COLLAPSE

Not a date, exactly. More a meeting.

 [trollcatz](#)  
February 19 2008, 16:52:33 UTC   COLLAPSE

A meeting?

Dude, she spends all day in those. I do not think that word means what you think it means.

 [cvillette](#)  
February 19 2008, 16:56:18 UTC   COLLAPSE

She offered pie and ice cream.

So I'm going to her place after work. Which means I am leaving *on time* tonight, because it would be uncool to be late to what might be a fraught conversation.)

(Apple pie. Dulce de leche ice cream.)



[Ometotchtli](#)

February 19 2008, 16:57:58 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

(total blues euphemism)



[cvillette](#)

February 19 2008, 17:21:25 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

(shaddap)



[Ometotchtli](#)

February 19 2008, 17:27:50 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

(no)



[trollcatz](#)

February 19 2008, 17:32:51 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

(She's right. Pie is a classic.)



[Ometotchtli](#)

February 19 2008, 17:34:23 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

(apple pie doubly so)

(apple pie and ice cream triply so)



[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#)

February 19 2008, 17:36:40 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

It could be peach.

Or cherry.



[cvillette](#)

February 19 2008, 17:37:02 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

I will freeze this thread. So help me God.



[trollcatz](#)

February 19 2008, 19:57:12 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

But you LIKE pie!

Mmmmmmmmmmm. Pie. Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.

...



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 20:00:32 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

So do you.

Don't make me go there.



[Ometotchtli](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:09:38 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

You already did, my li'l ginger cookie.



[trollcatz](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:10:41 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

It's true. He did. Totally.



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:11:48 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

\*dignified silence\*



[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:35:53 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

What the subject said behind his hand was "I can be there at five thirty."

And the back of his neck was red.

Also the ears.



[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:49:18 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

You will pay.



[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#)

[February 19 2008, 15:49:41 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Aww. Puppy snarls.




[cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 17:28:44 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)




Puppy teeth are small but sharp.

 ace\_cub\_reportr

February 19 2008, 17:29:15 UTC COLLAPSE

And scan to "Camptown Races."

 Ometotchtli

February 19 2008, 19:55:55 UTC COLLAPSE

See, that right there? That's why you're always getting the last word. Because after that, there's just nothing one can say.

Except what I just said.

 Ometotchtli

February 19 2008, 15:25:56 UTC COLLAPSE

'scuse me? Girlfriend calling at work? Tch tch!



 cvillette


February 19 2008, 15:26:18 UTC COLLAPSE

(she's not my girlfriend.)

 Ometotchtli

February 19 2008, 15:26:50 UTC COLLAPSE

Technicalities!

 trollcatz

February 19 2008, 15:30:28 UTC COLLAPSE

Don't distract the subject. He's broken out in a sweat.



 cvillette

February 19 2008, 16:04:19 UTC COLLAPSE

Gee, not to change the subject, but did you upgrade my livejournal account?

 Ometotchtli

February 19 2008, 16:06:20 UTC COLLAPSE

Why does everybody blame me????


<http://trollcatz.livejournal.com/12992.html>

 trollcatz

February 19 2008, 16:54:13 UTC COLLAPSE


Oh, come on, it's not like in mystery novels. Usually the most likely suspect IS GUILTY.

Except, okay, not this time.

 trollcatz


February 19 2008, 16:54:38 UTC   COLLAPSE

And stop trying to change the subject!

 trollcatz

February 19 2008, 21:13:18 UTC   COLLAPSE


I could probably find you a valium around here somewhere, once you're done finding good handholds on all the walls.

 trollcatz

February 19 2008, 21:14:31 UTC   COLLAPSE

0.0

How many nanoseconds is it until five?

 Ometotchtli

February 19 2008, 21:18:20 UTC   COLLAPSE

Is it the constantly finding errands to do that involve walking around the office that's driving you crazy, or the nail-chewing?

Platypus, you will look prettier with unchewed nails. Also, less likelihood of damaging scratch marks!

 cvillette

February 19 2008, 21:21:55 UTC   COLLAPSE

Ooo. *Bonus*.

You know, I never realized how many advantages there were to being an only child before you two got interested in my sex life. Or lack thereof.

 trollcatz

February 19 2008, 21:25:28 UTC   COLLAPSE

Awww.

\*earscratch\*

Coyote cookie?

Look, you want to bail early? I'll cover for you.



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:27:00 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

And spoil all your fun?



 [trollcatz](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:28:34 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

It's 4:30.

I am not without mercy.

Git. Go eat something, so you don't accidentally devour Tasha's kitchen table when she offers you... pie.



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:29:33 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I love you so much I will even forgive that last ellipsis.

Gone!



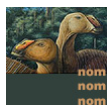
 [Ometotchtli](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:49:56 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Ooooooh, suddenly remembering important scene in *Bull Durham*.

Pie on the kitchen table. (elipse, elipse)



 [cvillette](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:19:20 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

If my jittering bothers you, you could try not going to such great lengths to wind me up.

...nah. ;-)



 [trollcatz](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:57:12 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Yeah, not gonna happen. <3 <3 <3

(May the Force go with him!)




 [tamnonlinear](#)

[February 19 2008, 21:33:43 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

As a side note, I thought "She wants revenge" was about the subject of the phone call, and I wondered what had happened now.

Also, since you guys aren't too far south of here, can I recommend Palace of Wonders as a good evening out in DC? They have all sorts of sideshow memorabilia on display (including a number of really cool-and-odd skeletons) and great live acts. One of my friends does aerial silk works, and she's fabulous.

 trollcatz

February 19 2008, 22:02:47 UTC    COLLAPSE

OMG aerial fabric thingie is teh coolest. I love watching that.

Wonder Woman mentioned one of their magic shows a while back, and I spaced it. Of course, she failed to mention the gothpunk burlesque. I would have remembered that. \*g\*

Wabbit (and eventually Platypus), they're having a pizza-eating contest next month. I just thought I should point that out so you can throw things at me. \*g\*

 Ometotchtli

February 19 2008, 22:03:25 UTC    COLLAPSE

\*flings shoe\*

\*flings other shoe\*

### Experimental Whole Wheat Green Chile Robot Bread #1

Yes, baking with your hands is more fun. And the results have a better texture, and taste better.

### [locked] Dream Journal

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

### Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't